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NEWS

NMTBA
The Association For Manufacturing Technology

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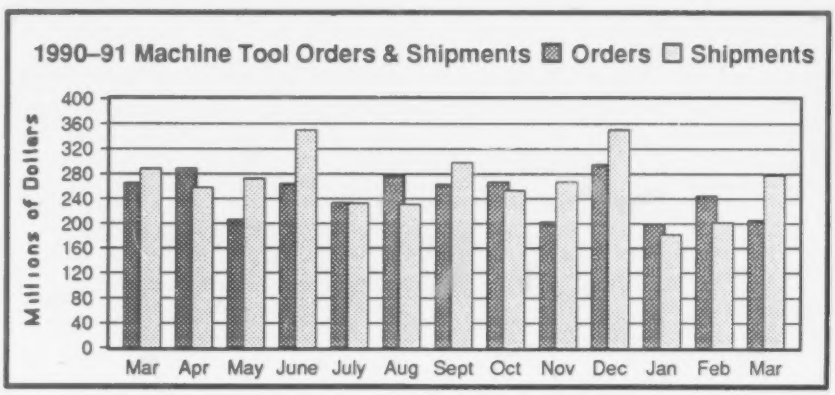
March Machine Tool Shipments Up, Orders Down

Total machine tool shipments in March reached $278.20 million, 37.6% above February's total of $202.15 million, according to figures released today by NMTBA – The Association For Manufacturing Technology. Compared to 1990, 1991 year–to–date shipments are down 15.4%. Comparing March 1991 to March 1990, shipments are down 3.7%.

March machine tool orders totaled $205.45 million, down 16.2% from February's $245.15 million. Year–to–date orders in 1991 are down 1.7% compared to 1990. Comparing March 1991 to March 1990, orders are down 22.7%.



"First quarter total orders are still running close to last year's level, with foreign orders actually up a bit," said NMTBA President Albert W. Moore. "This, despite the strengthening U.S. dollar and uncertainty and weakness in many major foreign markets. We think it illustrates the improving competitiveness of the U.S. machine tool industry. As the world economy stabilizes after the uncertainties caused by the Gulf War, we should see manufacturers worldwide growing more confident and looking to improve their production facilities. As this happens, U.S. manufacturers must continue to push hard for a greater share of the world market for manufacturing technology."

(more)

He added, "Domestic manufacturing inventories are staying under control. Because U.S. companies have improved their production controls since the last downturn in the early '80s, when demand starts to pick up, it should translate into higher production levels more quickly than in the past. That, in turn, would be good for producers of manufacturing machinery and equipment."

Metal Cutting

Metal cutting orders in March were $153.60 million, down 17.5% for the month. Compared to 1990, year–to–date metal cutting orders are up 3.1%. Comparing March 1991 to the same month a year ago, orders were down 22.5%.

Shipments of metal cutting equipment reached $174.15 million in March, up 30.8%. Year–to–date shipments are 23.4% lower than the same period in 1990. Comparing March 1991 to March 1990, metal cutting shipments are down 18.7%.

Metal Forming

At $51.85 million, March metal forming orders were down 12.0% compared to February. Year–to–date 1991 metal forming orders were off 12.4% compared to 1990. March 1991 orders were 23.4% lower than orders for the same month in 1990.

March metal forming shipments rose to $104.05 million, up 50.8% for the month. Year–to–date metal forming shipments are up 3.1%. March shipments were 39.2% higher than the total for the same month last year.

Backlog

The machine tool order backlog for March 1991 was $1,455.95 million, down from February's $1,528.70 million. The March 1990 backlog was $1,682.05 million.

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COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
MAR 1991	127.25	26.35	153.60	31.80	20.05	51.85	159.05	46.40	205.45
FEB 1991	113.80	72.45	186.25	51.30	7.60	58.90	165.10	80.05	245.15
% CHANGE									
MAR 1991:FEB 1991	+11.8	-63.6	-17.5	-38.0	+163.8	-12.0	-3.7	-42.0	-16.2
MAR 1990	132.60	65.60	198.20	56.95	10.70	67.65	189.55	76.30	265.85
% CHANGE									
MAR 1991:MAR 1990	-4.0	-59.8	-22.5	-44.2	+87.4	-23.4	-16.1	-39.2	-22.7
YEAR TO DATE 1991	348.25	121.65	469.90	142.90	37.65	180.55	491.15	159.30	650.45
YEAR TO DATE 1990	350.75	104.90	455.65	155.15	50.90	206.05	505.90	155.80	661.70
% CHANGE									
1991 : 1990	-0.7	+16.0	+3.1	-7.9	-26.0	-12.4	-2.9	+2.2	-1.7

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
MAR 1991	149.05	25.10	174.15	87.10	16.95	104.05	236.15	42.05	278.20
FEB 1991	109.45	23.70	133.15	58.80	10.20	69.00	168.25	33.90	202.15
% CHANGE									
MAR 1991:FEB 1991	+36.2	+5.9	+30.8	+48.1	+66.2	+50.8	+40.4	+24.0	+37.6
MAR 1990	179.80	34.35	214.15	66.45	8.30	74.75	246.25	42.65	288.90
% CHANGE									
MAR 1991:MAR 1990	-17.1	-26.9	-18.7	+31.1	+104.2	+39.2	-4.1	-1.4	-3.7
YEAR TO DATE 1991	351.75	66.35	418.10	206.90	37.90	244.80	558.65	104.25	662.90
YEAR TO DATE 1990	466.80	79.05	545.85	211.80	25.60	237.40	678.60	104.65	783.25
% CHANGE									
1991 : 1990	-24.6	-16.1	-23.4	-2.3	+48.0	+3.1	-17.7	-0.4	-15.4

Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$2,532.50	$ 432.20	$2,964.70	$1,468.40	$2,855.55	$ 444.35	$3,299.90
1991							
JAN	$ 167.00	$ 32.85	$ 199.85	$1,485.70	$ 154.25	$ 28.30	$ 182.55
FEB (R)	$ 165.10	$ 80.05	$ 245.15	$1,528.70	$ 168.25	$ 33.90	$ 202.15
MAR (P)	$ 159.05	$ 46.40	$ 205.45	$1,455.95	$ 236.15	$ 42.05	$ 278.20
3 MONTHS	$ 491.15	$ 159.30	$ 650.45		$ 558.65	$ 104.25	$ 662.90

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$2,641.25	$ 459.85	$3,101.10	$ 108.75	$ 27.65	$ 136.40
1991						
JAN	$ 176.75	$ 40.00	$ 216.75	$ 9.75	$ 7.15	$ 16.90
FEB (R)	$ 175.15	$ 81.10	$ 256.25	$ 10.05	$ 1.05	$ 11.10
MAR (P)	$ 169.75	$ 47.70	$ 217.45	$ 10.70	$ 1.30	$ 12.00
3 MONTHS	$ 521.65	$ 168.80	$ 690.45	$ 30.50	$ 9.50	$ 40.00

P - Preliminary
R - Revised
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$1,771.95	$ 298.35	$2,070.30	$1,164.00	$2,004.45	$ 325.15	$2,329.60
1991							
JAN	$ 107.20	$ 22.85	$ 130.05	$1,183.25	$ 93.25	$ 17.55	$ 110.80
FEB (R)	$ 113.80	$ 72.45	$ 186.25	$1,236.35	$ 109.45	$ 23.70	$ 133.15
MAR (P)	$ 127.25	$ 26.35	$ 153.60	$1,215.80	$ 149.05	$ 25.10	$ 174.15
3 MONTHS	$ 348.25	$ 121.65	$ 469.90		$ 351.75	$ 66.35	$ 418.10

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$1,867.25	$ 318.45	$2,185.70	$ 95.30	$ 20.10	$ 115.40
1991						
JAN	$ 115.90	$ 29.95	$ 145.85	$ 8.70	$ 7.10	$ 15.80
FEB (R)	$ 123.40	$ 73.45	$ 196.85	$ 9.60	$ 1.00	$ 10.60
MAR (P)	$ 137.05	$ 27.55	$ 164.60	$ 9.80	$ 1.20	$ 11.00
3 MONTHS	$ 376.35	$ 130.95	$ 507.30	$ 28.10	$ 9.30	$ 37.40

P - Preliminary
R - Revised
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$ 760.55	$ 133.85	$ 894.40	$ 304.40	$ 851.10	$ 119.20	$ 970.30
1991							
JAN	$ 59.80	$ 10.00	$ 69.80	$ 302.45	$ 61.00	$ 10.75	$ 71.75
FEB (R)	$ 51.30	$ 7.60	$ 58.90	$ 292.35	$ 58.80	$ 10.20	$ 69.00
MAR (P)	$ 31.80	$ 20.05	$ 51.85	$ 240.15	$ 87.10	$ 16.95	$ 104.05
3 MONTHS	$ 142.90	$ 37.65	$ 180.55		$ 206.90	$ 37.90	$ 244.80

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$ 774.00	$ 141.40	$ 915.40	$ 13.45	$ 7.55	$ 21.00
1991						
JAN	$ 60.85	$ 10.05	$ 70.90	$ 1.05	$ .05	$ 1.10
FEB (R)	$ 51.75	$ 7.65	$ 59.40	$ .45	$ .05	$ .50
MAR (P)	$ 32.70	$ 20.15	$ 52.85	$ .90	$ .10	$ 1.00
3 MONTHS	$ 145.30	$ 37.85	$ 183.15	$ 2.40	$ .20	$ 2.60

P - Preliminary
R - Revised
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

QUARTERLY AND YEARLY SHIPMENTS AND NET NEW ORDERS OF MACHINE TOOLS

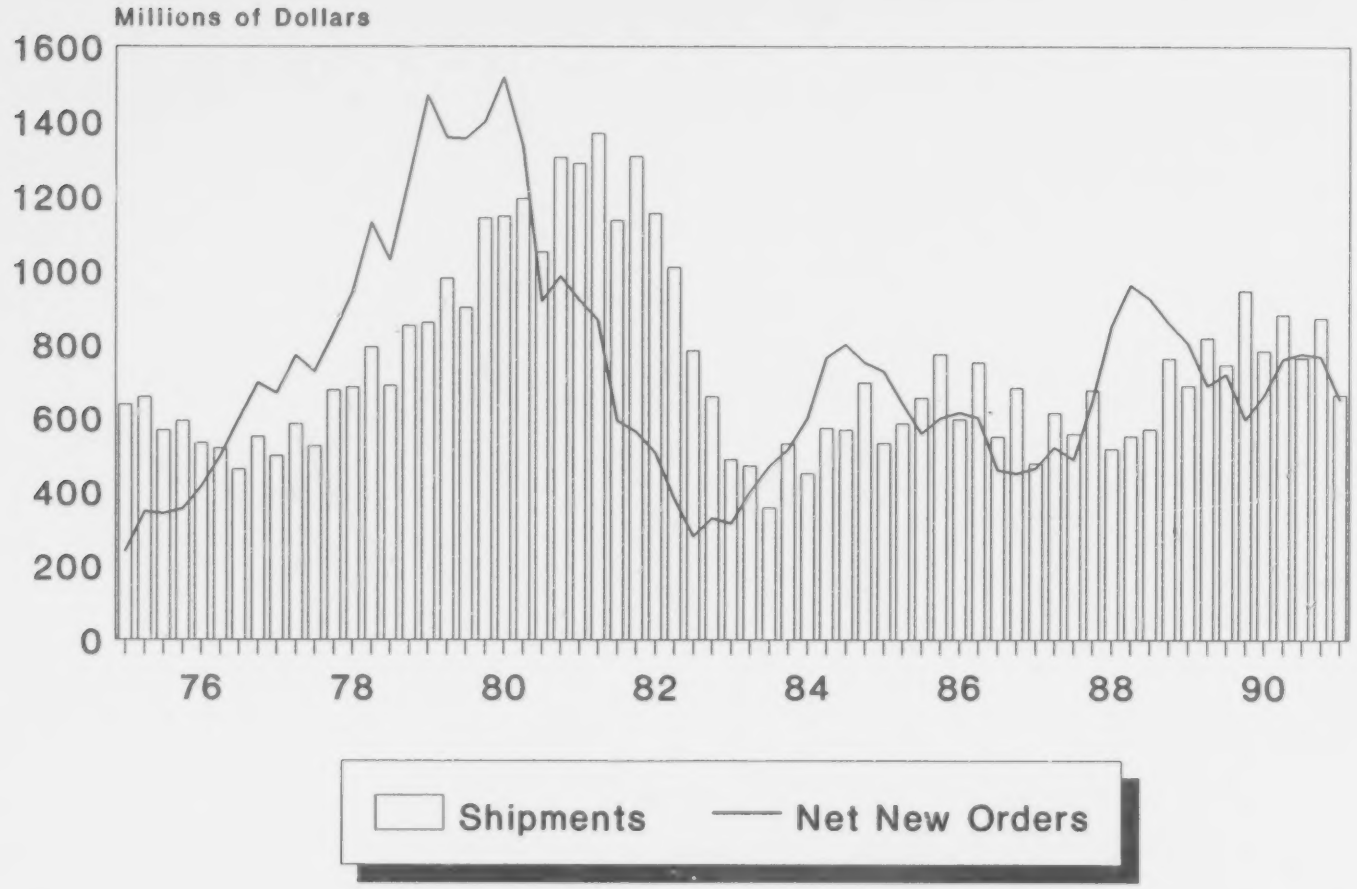
(Dollar Figures in Thousands)
1985 to Date

	Cutting and Forming			Cutting			Forming		
	SHIPMENTS		NET	SHIPMENTS		NET	SHIPMENTS		NET
DATE	Total	Foreign	NEW ORDERS	Total	Foreign	NEW ORDERS	Total	Foreign	NEW ORDERS
1985-1	$ 531,700	$ 48,950	$ 728,250	$ 357,050	$ 37,150	$ 528,500	$ 174,650	$ 11,800	$ 199,750
2	586,050	37,700	641,400	385,000	27,450	475,700	201,050	10,250	165,700
3	654,650	58,250	558,450	443,050	35,950	404,750	211,600	22,300	153,700
4	772,800	108,850	600,000	557,150	93,200	444,150	215,650	15,650	155,850
Total	$2,545,200	$253,750	$2,528,100	$1,742,250	$193,750	$1,853,100	$ 802,950	$ 60,000	$ 675,000
1986-1	$ 597,300	$ 67,300	$ 615,750	$ 386,950	$ 55,200	$ 463,500	$ 210,350	$ 12,300	$ 152,250
2	751,000	64,100	600,600	569,350	49,500	434,650	181,650	14,600	165,950
3	549,350	64,200	459,650	418,700	49,500	344,050	130,650	14,700	115,600
4	680,850	76,650	449,300	515,300	51,400	302,050	165,550	25,250	147,250
Total	$2,578,500	$272,450	$2,125,300	$1,890,300	$205,600	$1,544,250	$ 688,200	$ 66,850	$ 581,050
1987-1	$ 476,800	$ 55,950	$ 463,700	$ 349,150	$ 38,050	$ 326,100	$ 127,650	$ 17,900	$ 137,600
2	614,100	71,300	521,150	442,600	46,300	339,300	171,500	25,000	181,850
3	556,650	66,300	487,850	397,750	43,350	324,550	158,900	22,950	163,300
4	676,100	93,350	646,100	487,000	49,950	461,500	189,100	43,400	184,600
Total	$2,323,650	$286,900	$2,118,300	$1,676,500	$177,650	$1,451,450	$ 647,150	$ 109,250	$ 667,350
1988-1	$ 516,500	$ 60,000	$ 850,000	$ 317,850	$ 35,300	$ 666,250	$ 198,650	$ 24,700	$ 183,750
2	551,150	74,400	960,500	339,350	40,900	676,500	211,800	33,500	284,000
3	569,200	66,350	922,650	391,300	38,650	715,000	177,900	27,700	207,650
4	762,250	96,050	857,700	526,050	59,600	650,150	236,200	36,450	207,550
Total	$2,399,100	$296,800	$3,590,850	$1,574,550	$174,450	$2,707,900	$ 824,550	$ 122,350	$ 882,950
1989-1	$ 687,650	$ 81,400	$ 803,300	$ 481,550	$ 50,900	$ 602,550	$ 206,100	$ 30,500	$ 200,750
2	817,850	101,150	688,500	578,150	64,450	459,550	239,700	36,700	228,950
3	745,500	109,350	720,450	574,000	82,600	481,900	171,500	26,750	238,550	
4	944,600	140,350	595,700	724,900	101,450	432,350	219,700	38,900	163,350
Total	$3,195,600	$432,250	$2,807,950	$2,358,600	$299,400	$1,976,350	$ 837,000	$ 132,850	$ 831,600
1990-1	$ 783,250	$104,650	$ 661,700	$ 545,850	$ 79,050	$ 455,650	$ 237,400	$ 25,600	$ 206,050
2	881,300	108,700	760,950	638,800	84,750	533,050	242,500	23,950	227,900
3	763,650	92,550	775,400	507,500	59,350	584,450	256,150	33,200	190,950
4	871,700	138,450	766,650	637,450	102,000	497,150	234,250	36,450	269,500
Total	$3,299,900	$444,350	$2,964,700	$2,329,600	$325,150	$2,070,300	$ 970,300	$ 119,200	$ 894,400
1991-1P	$ 662,900	$104,250	$ 650,450	$ 418,100	$ 66,350	$ 469,900	$ 244,800	$ 37,900	$ 180,550

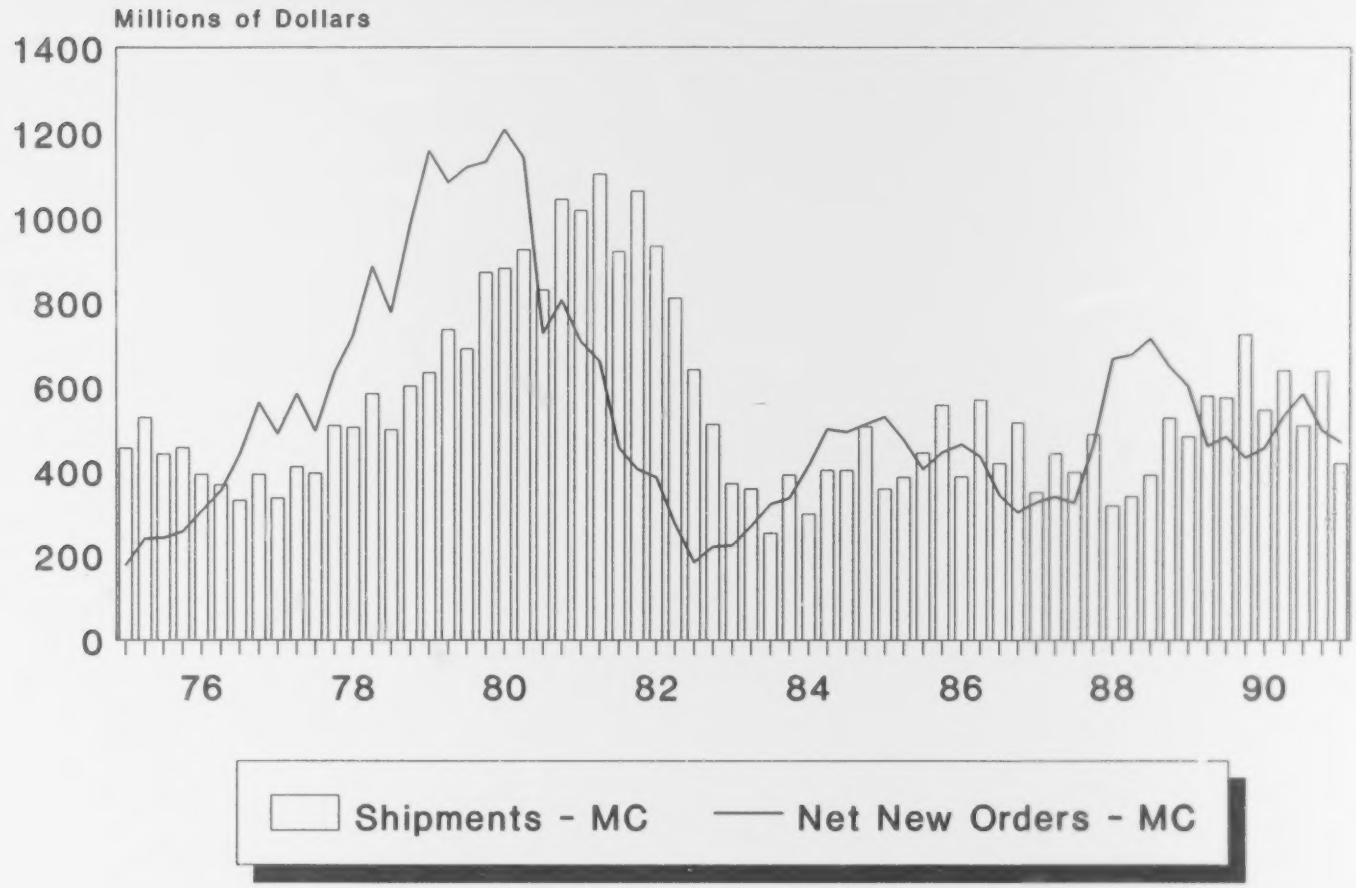
P - Preliminary
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

April 29, 1991

Total Machine Tools
Shipments and Net New Orders, Quarterly



Metal Cutting Machine Tools
Shipments and Net New Orders, Quarterly



Metal Forming Machine Tools
Shipments and Net New Orders, Quarterly